THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I hope we will do the same in regard to the rest of the Bills; provided the Government does not bring in controversial Bills, I assure you, we will pass them. Now we will take up the Chemical Weapons Convention Bill, 2000. I think, on this Bill also, I have only five names. Mr. Pranab Mukherjee's name is there, Shri Kripal Parmar's name is there, Dr. Biplab Dasgupta is not present, then two more names are there.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE(West Bengal): Madam, this is a technical Bill, in the sense that this Bill was passed by the Rajya Sabha, but it lapsed because the Lok Sabha was dissolved. India is not only a signatory to the Chemical Weapons Convention, but it is also one of the pioneers. This is one piece of disarmament resolution in which India has showed a lot of interest. If the House agrees, though two hours were alloted by the Business Advisory Committee...

AN HON. MEMBER: No; I do not agree with it.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: No, no. We will speak. We can speak. There is no harm in it. Let the Minister move it. We can have a discussion. There is no problem.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We can have a discussion. Those who want to speak can speak.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Let the Minister move the Bill first.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Suresh Prabhu.

THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION BILL, 2000

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): Madam, I move:

> "That the Bill to give effect to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction

and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration".

The question was proposed .

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Pranab Mukherjee, you have already spoken.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Yes, Madam. Now those who are interested, may speak and highlight some of the issues which will be taken into account by the Minister.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Parmar, do you want to speak, or you support it?

SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR (Himachal Pradesh): No, Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Then, Mr. Swaraj Kaushal. He is not here. Then, Dr. Biplab Dasgupta, he is also not here. Then, Dr. Raja Ramanna.

DR. RAJA RAMANNA (Nominated): Madam Deputy Chairman, of course, we have passed the Bill and ratified it. But I would however, like to draw the attention of the House to some of the problems that we have to bear in mind. There is no doubt that chemical weapons are the ugliest form of fighting. They are sneaky, they can be hidden easily and they can be produced easily. There are many items in the Bill which say how they should be destroyed, how they should be kept in safe custody so that it does not spread, and many other details are given with which I entirely agree. It also says that what is used in riots should not be used in warfare. I think this is a very important item which I would like to mention. Each State party should undertake not to use riot control agents as methods of warfare. I also take note of the fact that many countries have ratified the Chemical Weapons Convetion and voted for it. There are some countries which have not signed the Chemical Weapons Convention. But I would like to mention only two countries; one is Iraq and the other is Egypt. They have not signed it as of now.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: One country is Iraq; which is the other country?

DR. RAJA RAMANNA: Madam, I have got a list of all the countries. But they are not important from this point of view. But Egypt, Iraq, Libya are important countries which have not yet signed the Chemical Weapons Convention. Of course, there are a lot of other countries which have signed it. Why I say this is because, as long as there are countries which do not ratify it, there will be a problem. Then there is the question of terrorists. What will happen if the technology gets into the hands of terrorists; terrorism is a new fact which has come up since this Bill was first originally proposed in 1993. Of course, a long time has elapsed since 1993. I am saying this as a note of caution because, as things exist, and with the kind of technology that exists in the free world, chemical weapons can easily be produced and passed on to the terrorists. Now, it is for the people concerned to make sure that the countries have really agreed to keep these away from getting into the hands of unauthorised public because I have read statements made in various journals that people do wish to re-think about this proposal. However, I myself do not think that it would happen; but the people are worried about this fact. I would like to convey to the Minister my fear that if the technology gets into the hands of the terrorists, it would be a very dangerous thing, much more dangerous than any nuclear weapons because it is not easy to pass the nuclear weapons to terrorists, but with some countries having not ratified it yet, it becomes a problem. It must be seen that your system of controlling -- where these weapons are, who makes them, who passes them -- should be good. A better universal control should be there, namely, by the United Nations or some other control should be there; certainly better than what we have in the case of nuclear weapons.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE (Maharashtra) : Madam, I just want to seek one clarification from him. I would like to know whether our neighbours have ratified it and are abiding by it.

DR. RAJA RAMANNA : Madam, Pakistan has ratified it; Bangladesh has ratified it. I have a whole list of the countries which have ratified it. I have got this list from the Internet. But the one information that I do not have is related to the Middle-East countries. Madam, terrorism can spread from anywhere. This is all that I wanted to bring to the attention of the hon. Minister. I strongly support the Bill. It should always be carried through. But no Bill is of value unless it is properly

implemented. My only worry is about the implementation part of it. I am not sure whether the implementation would be good enough or not. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister to reconsider the question of implementation at various appropriate levels. But there is no question that the Bill should not be passed today. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The Bill has to be passed because it is an important Bill, and India is committed to it. We are the initiator of it also. We have ratified it. We are doing it again because the Lok Sabha was dissolved. However, among the many countries which have ratified it, some of them will never be in a position to have the chemical weapons. So, their ratification has really no meaning. The meaningful thing is, ratification by those countries which can afford to have chemical weapons, -- maybe, some are already having some chemical weapons - that is the most important thing.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Madam, I appreciate the apprehensions that have been expressed by the hon. Member and I also thank you, Madam, for drawing our attention to the possibility of some countries not ratifying it; and inadvertently, or, by design, such weapons falling into the hands of such agencies and such terrorist organisations which could be used not against a particular country, a particular sex, or a particular individual, but against the humanity as a whole because chemical weapons, by definition, have the potential of destroying the entire human race and that is the reason why such a Convention, to begin with, was negotiated, approved and now we have come to a stage -- we are one of the signatories to the Convention -- of converting our intention into a proper legislation. It is very correct that this legislation was passed by the Rajya Sabha. Unfortunatley, the Lok Sabha could not take the next logical step and approve it because it was dissolved. Now, we have come back to the Rajya Sabha with some modifications which are now before the House. I definitely assure the House that we will take this apprehension into consideration and we will definitely ensure that this does not fall into the hands of those who are likely to use it against the humanity. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please take it to the Lok Sabha in time so that it is passed. It should not come back to Rajya Sabha again.

THE INDIAN COMPANIES (FOREIGN INTERESTS) AND THE COMPANIES (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS ON DIVIDENDS) REPEAL BILL, 2000.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is one repealing Bill that Mr. Arun Jaitley has brought. I don't think that this is a controversial Bill.

There is nobody who will speak from the Congress Party. There is only Mr. Manohar Kant Dhyani from the BJP. Then we have Dr. Biplab Dasgupta.

Dr. Biplab Dasgupta, you missed two buses already. We passed two Bills in your absence. So, I request you to go out so that we can pass the third Bill also. We can do it in your presence too. I have no objection. We have only three Members who want to speak on this. I am happy.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Madam, with your permission, I move:

> "That the Bill to repeal the Indian Companies (Foreign Interests) Act, 1918 and the Companies (Temporary Restrictions on Dividends) Act, 1974, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration".

Madam, I want just to submit that it is on the recommendations of the Commission for review of administrative laws that these two legislations are sought to be repealed.

The first one, that is, the Indian Companies (Foreign Interests) Act, 1918, provided for protection of the British interests in certain shareholdings in companies. By virtue of corporate democracy, the shareholders could not amend the articles of those companies having a certain set of British shareholders and shares.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: So, it is redundant.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Today, there is no company notified in this category.